

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-36 in the application. In previous responses, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 3, 13, 27, 35 and 36. In the present amendment, the Applicants have canceled Claim 24 and amended Claims 1, 3, 9, 13, 17-23, 27, 33, 35 and 36. No claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-23 and 25-36 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 27-32 and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 27-32 and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,148,213 to Bertocci, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree since Bertocci does not teach at least one extension answering device that is never capable of initiating a telephone call as stated in independent Claims 27, 35 and 36. On the contrary, the portable unit of Bertocci is capable of initiating a telephone call. (Column 3, lines 6-11). Thus, Bertocci does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 27, 35 and 36.

Since Bertocci does not teach an extension answering device that is never capable of initiating a telephone call, Bertocci is not an anticipating reference of independent Claims 27, 35 and 36 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(a) rejection with respect to Claims 27-32 and 35-36 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 13-18, 20-23 and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-18, 20-23 and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,104,923 to Kite. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As indicated previously by the Examiner, Kite does not teach an extension answering device including a control circuit for responding to a busy signal received by a communications circuit to provide a busy signal indication as recited in Claim 13. (See Examiner's Final Action, page 5.) Thus Kite does not teach each and every element of independent Claim 13.

Regarding independent Claim 27, Kite teaches an answering machine that has volume control independent from a volume control of the remote unit. The volume control enables a user to reduce audible detection during screening at the answering machine separately from audible detection at the remote unit. (Column 18, lines 36-59). The independent volume control taught by Kite, however, is not a switch and, more specifically, is not a switch that turns on or turns off a call screening operation at a main telephone answering device independently from the call screening operation at an at least one extension answering device as recited in Claim 27. Kite, therefore, does not teach each and every element claimed in independent Claim 27.

Thus, Kite is not an anticipating reference of independent Claims 13 and 27 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(a) rejection with respect to Claims 13-18, 20-23 and 27-32.

III. Rejection of Claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kite in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0002707 to Ekel, *et al.* (Ekel). As discussed above, Kite does not teach each and every element of independent Claim 13 since Kite does not teach an extension answering device including a control circuit for responding to a busy signal received by a communications circuit to provide a busy signal indication. Ekel has not

been cited to cure the deficiencies of Kite as discussed above with respect to independent Claim 13 but has been cited to disclose Bluetooth compliant communication. (Examiner's Final Action, page 4). Thus, the cited combination of Kite and Ekel fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in Claims 25-26 which includes each and every element of independent Claim 13. Kite and Ekel, therefore, do not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 25-26. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claims 25-26.

IV. Rejection of Claims 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kite in view of WO 94/27394 to Sacher, *et al.* (Sacher). As discussed above, Kite does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 13. Sacher has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Kite but to teach multiple mailboxes of a main unit. (Examiner's Final Action, page 5). Thus, the cited combination of Kite and Sacher fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in Claim 19 which includes each and every element of independent Claim 13. The cited combination of Kite and Sacher, therefore, does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claim 19. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claim 19 and allow issuance thereof.

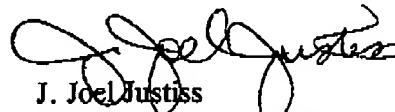
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-23 and 25-36.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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